IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-2 and add new claims 3-16 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) A walk-behind tiller comprising:

a body having a forward end and a rear end;

an axle mounted on the rear end of the body;

a pair of left and right travel wheels mounted to opposite ends of ~~an~~ the axle for undergoing rotation about a rotational axis to cause the walk-behind tiller to undergo travelling along a ground surface; ~~extending transversely of the body;~~

a tilling device ~~provided~~ mounted on the body forwardly of the left and right travel wheels for undergoing a first movement operation in which the tilling device travels along or makes a turn on the ground surface while the tilling device is disposed in spaced-apart relation to the ground surface, a second movement operation in which the tilling device tills the ground, and a third movement operation in which the tilling device is maintained generally horizontal to the ground surface; and

a ~~loop-shaped~~ handle having left and right proximal portions extending upwardly from the rear end ~~portions~~ of the body, ~~obliquely rearwardly upwardly; the loop-shaped handle comprising:~~ left and right horizontal grips extending rearwardly ~~substantially horizontally~~ from respective ones ~~rear ends~~ of the ~~handle~~ proximal ~~portions;~~ portions and configured to be gripped by an operator to maintain the tilling device generally horizontal to the ground surface during the third movement operation, left and right rising portions extending upwardly from respective ones ~~rear ends~~ of the left and right horizontal grips in a direction generally orthogonal ~~substantially orthogonally~~ to the ~~oblique handle proximal portions;~~ proximal portions and configured to be tilted forwardly and downwardly by the operator during the second movement operation to cause the tilling device to till the ground, and a cross portion disposed ~~interposed~~ between upper ends of the left and right rising portions and configured to be gripped and depressed by the operator to produce a downward force tending to lift the tilling device upward about the rotational axis to maintain the tilling device in spaced-apart relation to the ground surface. ~~portions, whereby the left and right horizontal grips are held for holding the tiller substantially horizontally, the left and right rising portions are held when the tiller is in~~

~~operation, and the cross member is held for forcing the handle down.~~

2. (currently amended) A walk-behind tiller according to ~~claim 1, further~~ claim 1; further comprising a clutch mounted on the body and a clutch lever mounted on the handle for undergoing pivotal movement relative to the handle from a first position to place the clutch in an engaged state to a second position to place the clutch in a disengaged state, the clutch lever having ~~provided at the loop-shaped handle, the clutch lever comprising:~~ left and right ~~supported ends swingably supported~~ support end portions pivotally mounted on at least one of the left and right horizontal ~~grips; left~~ grips, left and right first lever ~~horizontal~~ portions extending ~~rearwardingly~~ rearwardly from respective ones of the left and right ~~supported ends~~ support end portions and having a shape corresponding to that of respective ones of ~~shaped correspondingly to~~ the left and right horizontal grips of the ~~handle; and~~ handle, and left and right second lever ~~forwardly-tilted~~ portions extending upwardly from respective ones ~~rear ends~~ of the left and right first lever ~~horizontal~~ portions and having a shape corresponding to that of respective ones of ~~shaped correspondingly to~~ the left and right rising portions of the handle.

3. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 2; wherein in the disengaged state of the clutch, the left and right second lever portions of the clutch lever are disposed proximate to respective ones of the left and right rising portions of the handle so that the operator can hold the left and right second lever portions of the clutch lever together with the left and right rising portions of the handle.

4. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 3; wherein the clutch lever pivots away from the forward end of the body during pivotal movement from the first position to the second position thereof.

5. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 2; wherein the clutch lever is configured to pivot away from the forward end of the body during pivotal movement of the clutch lever from the first position to the second position thereof.

6. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 2; further comprising a ridge forming device connected to a rear end portion of the tilling device for forming a ridge in the ground surface during a ridge forming operation while the tilling device is in contact with the ground surface.

7. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 6; wherein the tilling device is disposed generally parallel to the ground surface during the ridge forming operation.

8. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 6; wherein the left and right travel wheels are disposed between the tilling device and the ridge forming device.

9. (new) A walk-behind tiller comprising:

a body having a forward end and a rear end;

a pair of travel wheels mounted on the body for undergoing rotation about a rotational axis to cause the walk-behind tiller to undergo travelling along a ground surface;

a tilling device mounted on the body for undergoing a first movement operation in which the tilling device travels along or makes a turn on the ground surface while the tilling device is disposed in spaced-apart relation to the ground surface, a second movement operation in which the tilling device tills the ground, and a third movement operation in which the tilling device is maintained generally horizontal to the ground surface; and

a handle having proximal portions extending from the body, a pair of grip portions extending from respective ones of the proximal portions and configured to be gripped by an operator to maintain the tilling device generally parallel to the ground surface during the third movement operation, a pair of rising portions extending from respective ones of the grip portions and configured to be tilted by the operator during the second movement operation to cause the tilling device to

till the ground, and a cross portion disposed between the rising portions and configured to be gripped and pressed by an operator to produce a force tending to move the tilling device about the rotational axis to maintain the tilling device in spaced-apart relation to the ground surface.

10. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 9; further comprising a clutch mounted on the body and a clutch lever mounted on the handle for undergoing pivotal movement relative to the handle from a first position to place the clutch in an engaged state to a second position to place the clutch in a disengaged state, the clutch lever having a pair of support end portions pivotally mounted on respective ones of the grip portions of the handle, a pair of first lever portions extending from respective ones of the support end portions, and a pair of second lever portions extending from respective ones the first lever portions.

11. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 10; wherein in the disengaged state of the clutch, the second lever portions of the clutch lever are disposed proximate to respective ones of the rising portions of the handle so that the operator can hold the second lever portions of the clutch lever together with the rising portions of the handle.

12. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 11; wherein the clutch lever pivots away from the forward end of the body during pivotal movement from the first position to the second position thereof.

13. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 10; wherein the clutch lever is configured to pivot away from the forward end of the body during pivotal movement of the clutch lever from the first position to the second position thereof.

14. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 10; further comprising a ridge forming device connected to a rear end portion of the tilling device for forming a ridge in the ground surface during a ridge forming operation while the tilling device is in contact with the ground surface.

15. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 14; wherein the tilling device is disposed generally parallel to the ground surface during the ridge forming operation.

16. (new) A walk-behind tiller according to claim 14; wherein the travel wheels are disposed between the tilling device and the ridge forming device.